



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



SD GUARD LEADER DISCUSSES SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES IN PINE RIDGE

The South Dakota National Guard's adjutant general, along with senior staff members, traveled to Pine Ridge to participate in high school career day, March 19.

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch held a question and answer session with approximately 20 students, just prior to the career day kickoff, where he answered questions ranging from requirements to join the National Guard to the types of jobs available. One student asked Reisch if there were many Native Americans serving in South Dakota National Guard.

"Native Americans make up 8.9 percent of our state's population but less than four percent of the South Dakota National Guard," Reisch told the students. "I'd like to close the gap between the numbers per capita for the state and our organization."

Reisch made embracing diversity one of his top priorities when becoming the adjutant general three years ago.

"The more diverse our organization becomes, the better we will get," Reisch said. "The more points of view, life experiences and opinions that we can take advantage of, the better our performance will be."

During the trip, Reisch and his staff members also met with Oglala Sioux Tribe President Bryan Brewer, where they discussed expanding training and support the National Guard could offer South Dakota reservations during the annual Golden Coyote training exercise.

"For 30 years we've conducted our annual training in the Black Hills and we've provided a lot of support for the U.S. Forest Service and Custer State Park," Reisch said. "I want to broaden that exercise and to me, natural partners are our reservations."

Reisch and Brewer discussed a variety of possible projects and missions ranging from engineer projects to medical, dental and veterinary support.

"I was very pleased with our meeting with President Brewer and his staff," Reisch said. "I'm very optimistic about the years ahead and enhancing our partnership with the Oglala Sioux Tribe."



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Heroes Among Us—
showcasing 125 South Dakota
veterans.



PTSD PROGRAM LOCATOR

The VA has added a new PTSD Program Locator In their website. The site allows participants to Locate nearby specialized Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) programs, search by state or find specialized PTSD programs by type. (http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/ptsd_flash.asp)



VETERANS ERA REUNION

Vietnam & Era Reunion

All Veterans Are Welcome

MAY 2, 3, and 4, 2014

Deadwood Gulch - Deadwood, SD

304 Cliff St.- Deadwood, SD

Friday, May 2nd, Arrival day, evening social at the VFW, check in

Saturday, May 3rd – Registration/Check in, State Convention Mtg., Banquet, Dance, Tourist time, Fund raising auction, (donate an item to auction) all funds donated to a Veteran's cause.

Sunday, May 4th – Memorial Service

Deadwood Gulch Motel 800-695-1876/605-578-1294

Super 8 Motel 605-578-2535 & Cedar Wood Inn 605-578-2725

To receive the room rates, tell them that you are with the Vietnam Veterans Reunion.

Sponsored By Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapters #463 & #1039

Registration – Prior to 15 April, \$50.00 per person - \$55.00 at the door

Name _____ Branch of Service _____

Guest _____

Address _____

e-mail _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Confirmation of receipt to be done by e-mail.

Make all checks payable to: VVA

Mail to: VVA, P.O. Box 2922, Rapid City, SD 57709-2922

For more info contact: Virgil Stockstad @ 605-716-4967 or e-mail virgil@rushmore.com

"Jack" Dean @ 605-393-0444 or e-mail boats6842@yahoo.com

Martin Anderson @ 605-717-4900 or e-mail anderson@midco.net

NEW FITNESS PROGRAM HELPS GUARDSMEN LEAD HEALTHIER LIVES

Maintaining physical fitness after basic training is expected of Soldiers in the South Dakota Army National Guard, but life-changing events or civilian careers can sometimes make it difficult to sustain physical and mental wellness.

Instructors from the SDARNG's 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), along with professionals from the Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System, located at Fort Meade, are providing the tools and education necessary for Soldiers to live a healthy lifestyle through a new two-week Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness Program.

The course is targeted toward Soldiers who need to improve on their Army Physical Fitness Test score or meet the Army's weight standards. The first course was held March 8-22 and included 49 students, and a second course is planned for August.

There is a lot of time and money invested into training Soldiers, and the experiences the organization has given them through training or deployments is priceless, said Hansen.

To help influence that change, the RTI partnered with the VA's MOVE! Program; a national weight management program for veterans focusing on healthy lifestyle changes, rather than dieting. This is the first time the VA has partnered with the National Guard, said Marni Whalen, VA registered dietician.

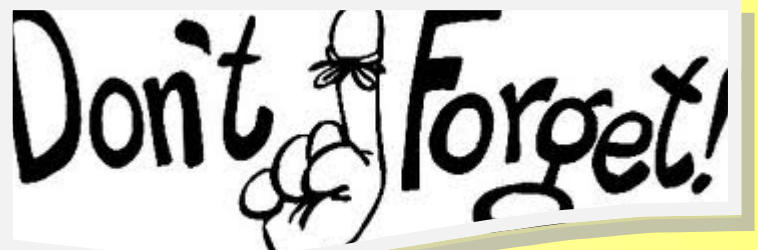
In addition to the VA MOVE! Program, the course consists of a daily three-hour Army Physical Readiness Training session; tailored to instruct the Soldiers on the proper movements and drills. The Soldiers also learn resiliency skills to give them the mental skills to deal with life's challenges.



DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR

The April 16th deadline for the South Dakota Veterans Service Officers Association's sponsored National Accreditation Training draws near!

Please get your registration in as soon as you can. Presently, there are twenty registrants with a third coming from out-of-state. Your registration, by mid-April, will assist in planning for the August 25-29th training. Thank you! Gordon and Mike



HEROES AMONG US



A 1967 graduate of Lyons High School, Larry Person completed one semester at the University of South Dakota and joined the United States Marines in February 1968.

From January 1969 to June 1970 Larry served in country in Vietnam. The remainder of his enlistment he was stationed at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

Person was awarded the VN Service, VN Campaign, RVN Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation, Good Conduct, and the National Defense Service Medal.

After completing his tour of duty, Person returned to college in 1972 to obtain a business administration degree from Dakota State University. He then worked on the family farm for four years and was the assistant manager at Domestic Seed & Supply in Madison from 1980-1983.

Larry began his 30-year career with the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs on Aug. 1, 1983, as a field officer out of the Pierre office. In 1984 Person was promoted to field office supervisor and moved back to Sioux Falls, Feb. 1985.

In 1989 he moved back to Pierre when the supervisor position was relocated. Person was recently named

the program manager for the Pierre office.

Person is a life member of the VFW.

Thank you Larry, for your service to this great country.



HEROES AMONG US



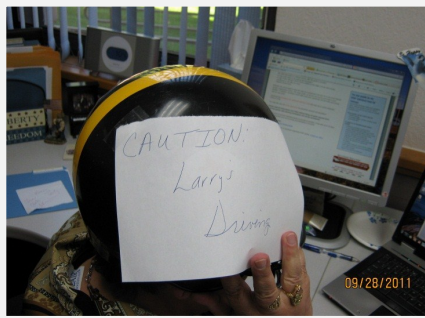
Men and women who serve their country have a unique relationship with each other – a shared bond, and that's especially true of Larry Person, who for the past thirty years has dedicated his life to assist thousands of veterans.

There are parts of his military story we'll never know because Larry doesn't talk about it. His country needed him, and so he served. Men like him, men of integrity and dignity, men who believe the essence of a good life is doing for others, never wanted it to be about him.



If you looked up Larry Person in the thesaurus, you'll find words like mentor, guru, teacher, supporter, adviser, leader, organizer, dedicated, loyal, committed, faithful, exact, historian, reliable, dependable, trustworthy, honest and constant.

For over thirty years he has dedicated his life to improving the lives of



South Dakota's veterans and their families. His reliability, dedication, expertise and contributions are hard to quantify. He has worked with five different administrations in South Dakota, served on the planning team for the World War II, Korean and Vietnam Memorials. He has worked with all the partners within our veteran network – (VA staff, congressional delegation and their staff, veterans service organizations, county and tribal veterans service officers, and legislators. He has memorized South Dakota Codified Law and can quote any respective statute when needed.



Larry would be the first to tell you that there is no cookie-cutter approach in obtaining benefits for veterans – each case is unique. His core values of service and sacrifice reflect the values of our country at its very best and demonstrate his commitment.

No matter what project he has been assigned, Larry handles it with incredible efficiency and finesse.

Thank you Larry, for your unending support to the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and South Dakota's veterans. Thirty years – Oooooooooorah!!!!

Semper Fi Larry!!!!!!



SPINK COUNTY HOSTS WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION

Spink County veterans gathered in the rotunda of the Spink County Courthouse on Sunday evening, March 30, to observe Spink County's first "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day".

VSO Gordon Richard read the Executive Proclamation by Governor Daugaard, Pastor Lorah Houser Jankord led the participants in prayer and the Redfield All State Chorus provided the music. Mayor Jamie Akin welcomed the assembled and Aberdeen businessman, and three Vietnam tours-of duty Mi-

chael Erickson



spoke of 'coming home'. The gathering had a sandwich supper as well. The closing prayer was accompanied by Taps being played throughout the courthouse rotunda.



(Left to right) Mayor Jamie Akin, Gordon Richard VSO, Speaker Michael Erickson and Pastor Lorah Houser Jankord.

SDDVA HIRES TWO SUMMER INTERNS

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce that we have hired Jerred Tarrell and Nicole Christiansen as summer interns at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home.

Jerred, a college student at Presentation College in Aberdeen and native of Hot Springs, will be working on documenting the history of the State Veterans Home cemetery.

Nicole, a student at Northern State University in Aberdeen and native of Pierre has been tasked with writing a comprehensive history on the state veterans home.

Both finished products will be great resources for our historical files.



OLIVA NAMED PROGRAM MANAGER

Steve Oliva has been named the program manager for the Pierre Office of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.



Oliva began his duties as program manager on Monday, March 24.

Steve has been with the Department for over nine years and during that tenure has worked directly with over 54 County VSO's. Take a moment to wish him the best — he's going to need it — with hiring of a new FO, training a new FO, Operation RAV and all other duties as assigned by the Secretary and Deputy Secretary, he will have his plate full — but for those of us that know Steve, we know he likes his plate full!!!!!!

TWO NEW TVSOS JOIN THE VETERAN TEAM IN SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota has two new Tribal Veterans Service Officers assisting our veterans. Manaja Hill has been named the TVSO for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in Fort Yates, ND. Office hours, mailing address and phone information stays the same. His email address is mhill@standingrock.org.

Alton Adams, pictured at the right, has been named the new TVSO for the Oglala Sioux Tribe. Born and raised in Pine Ridge, Alton knows the OST Veterans. Alton served in the United States Army. Office hours and contact information remain the same. Alton's email address is as follows: leonrichadms@yahoo.com.



Upcoming Events

2014

Apr. 5-6—152nd Yellow Ribbon

Apr. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am

Apr. 16—SD Veterans Council Meeting—DAV Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am

May 2-4—DAV State Convention—Ramkota Hotel—Aberdeen

May 2-4—Vietnam Era Reunion—Deadwood Gulch—Deadwood

May 6—SDDVA Mini Conference—Sturgis - Veterans Club, 868 Main Street—10:00 am (MT)

May 7—SDDVA Mini Conference—Pierre - American Legion, 520 S. Pierre Street—10:00 am (CT)

May 8—SDDVA Mini Conference—Brookings - City/County Building, 520 3rd Street—10:00 am (CT)

Jun 5-8—VFW State Convention—Custer

Jun. 19-22—American Legion State Convention—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre

Jul. 7—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am

Aug. 6—DOL Veterans Job Fair—Augustana College Elmen Center—10:00 am—2:00 pm

Aug. 25-29—NACVSO Training Ramkota Hotel—Pierre

Oct. 6—BHNC Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—BHNC—9:00 am

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